

Big River Journey 2005

What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) is an integration of river and classroom experiences that connect 4th-6th grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-theme activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from among the many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey addresses state and district learning requirements.

Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics (subject to change):

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystems
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting
- Confluence archaeology*
- Floodplain forest*
- Dakota culture*
- Soldier hike*

* land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 4th-6th grade students.

Field trip location

Mississippi River, on board the Harriet Bishop paddleboat. Trips travel between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, Saint Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park.

Field trip dates & times

May 2-5, 9-12, 16-19, 2005. Boat departs at 9:30 a.m. & 11:45 a.m. Boat trip duration: 1 3/4 hours.

- May 2-5 trips are round trips from Harriet Island, St. Paul.
- May 9-12 and 16-19 trips are one-way trips that incorporate a learning experience at Fort Snelling State Park (note: this is not at "Historic Fort Snelling") as follows:

* 9:30 a.m. boat departures begin at Harriet Island, then disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for a session with staff from FSSP or other BRJ partners. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session will conclude at 12:45 p.m. Return busses will load students at the FSSP Visitor Center.

* 11:45 a.m. boat departures embark from Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) after a morning session with park or partner staff, and time for a brown bag lunch. The morning session at FSSP begins at 10:00 a.m. The paddleboat trip begins at 11:45 a.m., and concludes at 1:30 p.m. at Harriet Island, where return busses will load.

Participation requirements

1) Attendance at a Big River Teacher Workshop is required of all teachers unless previously attended since January 2000. At the "Big River Workshop" teachers will:

- participate in demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher's Guide of thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

Workshop location:

Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (enter park from Post Road near airport)

Workshop dates (choose one):

- Thur, Feb 10, 2005 (9:00-2:00)
- Sat, Feb 12, 2005 (8:30-1:00)

Workshop registration:

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 (Brian Goodspeed).

Workshop cost (donation):

\$10/person (non-refundable) is requested by January 30, 2005, to cover park entry and help defray workshop expenses. Make out a check to "Mississippi National River & Recreation Area" and write "BRJ workshop donation" on the memo line. Send to:

Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

111 E. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
Attn: Brian Goodspeed

2) Preparation and follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (ideas and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (info at workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations

Field trip fee: \$7.50/student

Field trip payments are handled by the Padelford Packet Boat Co. Inc., (ph: 651-227-1100) which will contact you for billing if your school is chosen to participate.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for a limited number of qualifying schools. (Twin Cities Metro area schools with at least 50% participation in free/reduced lunch program and/or at least 50% students of color qualify. Schools are not eligible two years in a row.) Field trip fees for approved scholarship schools will be \$3/student. Schools must pay for own busses. Scholarships will be confirmed in writing. For further details call Mary Maule at 651-290-3030, ext. 231.

BIG RIVER JOURNEY 2005 RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

Selections for Big River Journey field trips are made through a drawing. To submit your school's request (one request per school please) fax or send this completed form so we receive it by October 15, 2004:

School _____ Number of students (limits: 120/trip, 180/school) _____

School address _____ City, state, zip code _____

Contact Person _____ Contact email _____

Phone # _____ Best time to contact _____ Grade(s) (circle): 4 5 6

Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshop (must fill in at least one, or check below):

Thur, Feb 10, 2005 (9:00-2:00) Teachers who will attend: _____

Sat, Feb 12, 2005 (8:30-1:00) Teachers who will attend: _____

_____ I/we have attended workshop previously (since Jan, 2000): _____

NOTE: All BRJ teachers must attend the workshop. If all have attended previously (since 1/00), check here: _____

Are you requesting a scholarship (note qualification requirements elsewhere in flyer)? YES / NO If yes, go on...

Once all scholarship funds have been allocated, do you still wish to be considered without scholarship? YES / NO

Reservation Scheduling: Schools will be called in the order drawn beginning October 19 for scheduling. If you are not reached, a message will be left (if possible), and the next school will be contacted. Your prompt response will ensure best selection of trip date/time. Please be patient, as the process may take some time. At the completion of scheduling, non-selected schools will be contacted about other river-based learning opportunities.

Fax or send this form (or a copy) to:
(must be received by Oct 15, 2004)

Big River Journey Reservations
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
Fax: 651-290-3214

For further information: Call Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297, or visit our website at
<http://www.nps.gov/miss> or <http://www.nps.gov/miss/programs/brj/index.html>.